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When not working at the library or on VLAPF matters, Ona’s favorite hobby is collecting bears - stuffed and resin. In particular, she is an avid collector of the Cherished Teddies collection. She has about 1,000 pieces! As a member of the local and national collectors’ clubs she enjoys traveling to different events in various states to meet fellow collectors and to have pieces signed by the artists.

She also traveled to Italy and England on school-sponsored trips while in high school at Amherst County High. More recently, cruising has become a favorite way to travel. She and Herb are looking forward to their sixth cruise and second to Bermuda in June.

The rest of the Lynchburg Public Library staff feel fortunate to have Ona as a coworker, not just for her professional expertise, but because she is friendly and fun to be with.

Mother's Day

MOTHER’S DAY CRAFT WORKSHOP

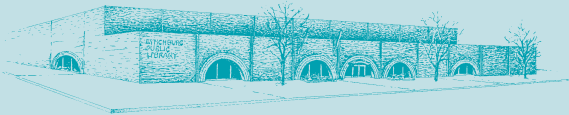
Saturday, May 7

Drop-in between 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Bring Dad and make your Mom a *secret special something* at our annual Mother’s Day Craft workshop.
Open to children of all ages.
Smaller children need to be accompanied by someone who can help them.

All materials and instructions are made available for free.

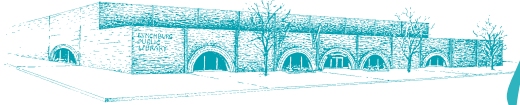
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LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



Newsletter

VOLUME 5 • NUMBER 2

www.lyncburgva.gov/publiclibrary

APRIL/MAY 2005

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK – APRIL 10-16, 2005
Something for everyone @ your library™

CYBERWHAT??? CYBERBULLYING! IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS WORD MEANS...YOU SHOULD.

I hate you...everyone hates you too...you are ugly and fat...you are stupid and dumb. I wish you were dead! If you try and report me I will hack into your computer!

Chilling words! Even more so when you read this from the comfort of your own home computer. Think about how frightening this would be if received by an 11-year-old.

It used to be that a bully could be easily identified: the big kid in the playground or in the school hallways picking on some smaller child. But now, bullies come in many forms through the Internet and into your home. They can be a clique of sweet fifth grade girls who sit in the front rows at school with straight A's. But after school, they form a “posse” (Medieval origin: “power of the country”) and give their victims the same feelings of powerlessness and hopelessness as the traditional form.

Bullying, whether it occurs in the schoolyard or online, is at its core about power and control. But the Internet has the advantage of giving kids a chance to get away with a lot more because they don't have to have enough confidence to walk up and say cruel things to another student. They can torment their victims anonymously. Cyberbullies' weapons of choice are e-mail, cell



So what can be done?

- ✓ Research Cyberbullying on your own. Search: i-safe.org, mindoh.com or cyberbully.org
- ✓ Talk to your children about it. See www.mindohfoundation.org/bullying.htm.
- ✓ If your children are victims, have them change their screen name and give it only to people they trust.
- ✓ Ask officials at your child's school what they are doing about cyberbullying. Ask them to establish an Internet Safety Club.
- ✓ Ask law enforcement what they are doing about cyberbullying.
- ✓ Don't feel secure by restricting computer use; children will just go somewhere else to use a computer.
- ✓ And maybe, just maybe, using the term Cybercowards will make a difference.

phones that can send text messages and instant-messaging programs that allow users to chat electronically in real time.

So why don't kids just turn the computer off and not read the messages at all? Because parents and kids relate to technology very differently. Most adults approach computers as practical tools, while for kids the Internet is a lifeline to their peer group.

And it is this lifeline that sometimes leads to death. See People Magazine, March 14, 2005: *The Web: The Bully's New Playground*. Some victims of cyberbullies are deciding the only way to earn respect is to kill themselves. Parents of children who take the ultimate option are stunned to find the reason for their children's suicide. Cyberbullying flies low under the radar of parents because it is practically subterranean since it exists in the world of mostly young people.

Lorry Risinger
Youth Services

MAIN LIBRARY
2315 Memorial Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Circulation, Renewals,
Returns, Library Cards
455-6300

Reference and
Information
455-6310

Youth Services
455-6320

Administration and
Technical Services
455-6330

Volunteer Program
455-6330

LIBRARY HOURS Main

Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.
9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Tues., Thurs.
9:30 AM-9:00 PM

Downtown Branch
Mon. – Fri.
9:30 AM-5:30 PM

**DOWNTOWN BRANCH
AND LAW LIBRARY**
900 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
455-3820

CLOSED
Monday, May 30
Memorial Day

www.lyncburgva.gov/publiclibrary

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BOOK AN ADVENTURE! Lynchburg Public Library's 2005 Summer Reading Program

Our Summer Reading Program will begin during the week of June 27.

Don't miss the kick-off program on Wednesday, June 29th with
Captain Kidzo and The Super Reading Heroes!

This year our adventures will take you through the ages from the days of dinosaurs right into the future with a backwards party.

You won't want to miss a single event.

And you won't want to miss getting your reading log, too.
Complete information will be available beginning May 16th.

NEW DATABASES

@ your library™



For the next few issues, we will continue to highlight the databases that are available through **Find It Virginia** from the library's web page. These databases may be accessed by anyone from within both libraries or from home or any other remote location by anyone with a library card from any Virginia public library. To access the databases, go to the library's web page at www.lyncburgva.gov/publiclibrary and click on "Information Resources." From there, click on "Databases" and see what **Find It Virginia** has to offer.

In the last newsletter we highlighted the Biography Resource Center. In this newsletter we will highlight **Kids InfoBits**. **Kids InfoBits** targets the research needs of students in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Colorful graphics on the home page direct the children to various categories such as Animals, Plants, Inventions and Technology, Geography, Health, Sports, and others. There is also a search feature. Once a topic is chosen, a list of full-text magazine and newspaper articles or encyclopedia entries is listed.



Many topics also include images. Articles are coded by reading level – Easy or More Difficult, and may be printed or emailed.

Kids InfoBits also includes an online dictionary (*Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary*), and a Teacher Toolbox with such topics as

Choosing a Topic, Judging Information,

How to Cite a Source, and others. This is an excellent way to introduce young children to the use of online databases.

REMEMBERING A FRIEND – SUSAN FAIN DAVIS

The library lost one of its very earliest Friends and the community a life long civic leader when Mrs. Susan Fain Davis passed away on March 16, 2005. In 1961, when the then Sue Fain was the librarian at Dunbar High School, she joined with 17 other local librarians to form the Interim Committee for City-Wide Library Service. The Interim Committee was the first to call for a tax-supported public library; both newspapers responded with editorials endorsing their call to action. Their efforts led to the formation of the Friends of the Lynchburg Public Library. At the library's grand opening ceremony on April 16, 1966, Sue, as president of the LINKS, Inc., one of the many civic organizations which supported the Friends campaign, joined other dignitaries on the dais. In 1969, she joined the Friends Board and in 1975-76, took an active role in celebrating the library's 10th anniversary. She remained a Friend professionally and personally throughout her life. A book has been donated to the library in her memory.

NEW VIDEO POLICY

@ your library™



The checkout limit has been increased to 5 Adult Collection plus 5 Youth Collection videos per library card. The loan period remains at 7 days with no renewals allowed. The fine for overdue videos is \$1.00 per day. Videos are examined each time they circulate and they are cleaned on a regular basis. If you experience any difficulty viewing a video, please report the problem to staff when you return it.

Ona Turner Dowdy
Circulation Supervisor



ONLINE BOOK CLUBS KEEP ON GROWING

The online book clubs now number 308 individual members. To learn more about and to sign up for any of the 11 **Dear Reader Book Clubs**, click on the icon on the library's home page. Each weekday morning you will find an excerpt from a book in your email. The section will take about five minutes to read. Recent books featured by **Dear Reader** are *Eventide* by Kent Haruf (Fiction Book Club), *Business Under Fire* by Dan Carrison (Business Book Club), *The Manchurian Candidate* by Richard Condon (Audio Book Club), *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson (Non-Fiction Book Club), and *Newbies* by James A. Moore (Teen Book Club). This is a free service.

TIPS ON ONLINE MEDICAL ADVICE



As people become more comfortable using the Internet, they are using it to research an ever-increasing variety of topics. It is important to remember that the quality of information found on the Internet varies widely. This is especially true with medical advice. Anyone with an elementary knowledge of some of the web design software can create a website and call him/herself "doctor." Here are some tips for using online medical advice, courtesy of Mayo Clinic Women's HealthSource:

- Note the suffix. Educational (.edu), government (.gov), and organizational (.org) sources tend to be more reliable than commercial (.com) sites, which may simply be trying to sell you something.
- Check the board. Look for sites that have an editorial board or medical advisory board that reviews content
- Seek verification – just in case you get outdated information.
- Look for "HON." That indicates whether the site conforms to the Health on the Net Foundation's Code of Conduct.

Library History – FOURTH IN A SERIES

Please Share with Us! In the previous three articles on the history of the library I recounted the formation of the Friends organization, their successful appeal to City Council for the city's first tax-supported public library, the opening of the library in 1966 and the 1969 citywide Asian Affairs Study program. I hope that these brief overviews have caused you to recall your role in these events - there must be many interesting stories. If you have one you would like share, Pat Doyle and I would like to hear from you.

Pat was one of the Jr. Women's Club members who went door-to-door in 1963 soliciting memberships in the Friends. Now, 43 years later, she is writing a history of the Friends and library for publication in *Lynch's Ferry* magazine. Her article and a related exhibit in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center will kick off the 2006 40th Anniversary celebration. We need stories and artifacts. If you have anything to share, please contact me at 455-6301 or via e-mail at lynn.dodge@lynchburgva.gov. We want to hear from you.

Lynn Dodge

Employee Spotlight – ONA DOWDY

Circulation supervisor Ona Turner Dowdy began working at the main library in August 2000, but her library career began many years before that. Her first library job was during her student days at UVA in the late 1970's. Her mother, a Sweet Briar employee, helped her get an interview for a job as a summer student worker there. Her main duty was taking inventory under less than perfect conditions – no air conditioning in the hot, humid central Virginia summer. After graduation she again worked at the Sweet Briar College library as a data entry clerk for the retrospective conversion project, which involved changing from a card catalog to a computerized system. By the end of the yearlong project, Ona had been promoted to supervisor. Continuing on the same project, Ona worked here at the Lynchburg Public Library for about seven months before receiving a call from Lynchburg College inviting her to apply for a position as circulation supervisor. She held that position for 17 years, from 1983 to 2000, helping to set policies, make the changes automation allowed, and write a detailed policies-and-procedures manual used by both regular and student library staff members.

Besides her work at the library, Ona continues to work for libraries as a member of the executive board of the Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Forum (VLAPF). In this position she helps to organize the association's annual conference which is attended by approximately 300 library support staff from Virginia and from other states as far away as New York and Connecticut. Because of her work at the Lynchburg College Library and her work with the Paraprofessional Forum, Ona was featured on the cover of *Library Journal*, a national publication, in 1995 and in 1997 was named Virginia's Outstanding Paraprofessional of the Year.

In her current position, she has a staff of four full-time and seven part-time employees. They handle an average of 3000 items per day.

Ona feels that she was destined to work in libraries. One opportunity always led to another, and she even met her husband in a library! Ona and her husband, Herb, live in Coleman Falls with their many cats.

continued on back page

PLEASE RETURN YOUR MATERIALS ON TIME AND TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

Please check your materials carefully before returning them to make sure that they belong to Lynchburg Public Library and not another library or that they are not personal copies (which we will think are gifts). Also, in the case of videos, please check to see that they aren't rentals from Hollywood or Blockbuster. We've had a lot of all of these lately.

Materials from the Main Library may be returned to the Downtown Branch and Downtown Branch materials may be returned to the Main Library.